



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**AUSTIN WOMAN SENTENCED TO OVER 10 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR
ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF ALIENS FOR PROSTITUTION AND FIREARMS CHARGES**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that 36-year-old Maria Magdalena Lopez-Torres, a resident alien living in Austin, Texas, was sentenced to 151 months in federal prison for importation of aliens for immoral purposes, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and possession of a stolen firearm. Lopez-Torres pled guilty to the charges on September 29, 2004.

From April 7, 2001 to May 22, 2003, Lopez-Torres managed or supervised an operation where minor females smuggled from Mexico to Austin were forced to engage in commercial sex acts. Also, on July 26, 2003, she knowingly paid an individual between \$50-\$100 for a Sako bolt-action rifle. Lopez-Torres told authorities that she suspected the rifle was a stolen firearm and that the seller wanted money to buy crack cocaine. As a convicted felon, Lopez-Torres was prohibited from possessing a firearm. The rifle, recovered from a storage unit being rented by the defendant, was reported by the owner as having been stolen from his automobile. Lopez-Torres' criminal history reflects a 2002 felony conviction in Williamson County, Texas, for tampering with a government record.

"What this woman did to these young girls was despicable. She betrayed them and their families and today, pays a heavy price for her crimes," said United States Attorney Johnny Sutton.

Lopez-Torres was arrested on July 26, 2004, in San Antonio, Texas, by agents with the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Assistant United States Attorney Gerald C. Carruth prosecuted this case on behalf of the Government.

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